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Baoul Wallenberg is alive, brother believes

Michigan-educated aristocrat was appointed a diplomat to Budapest to head a rescue mission for Hungary's Jews. One of his primary means of saving Jews was the issuance of Swedish documents which prevented their deportation to Nazi death camps during the final year of the war.

He fell into Russian hands in January 1945 and was never seen again, though accounts persist to this day from former Russian prisoners that he is still alive. If he is alive, he would be 75 years old.

of various countries," explained
Darjet.

On Jan. 17, 1943, on his way to the town of Debrecent to meet with the new Russian commander, Wallenberg was taken into Russian custody. He was never seen or heard from again.

"The Soviets have issued conflicting public statements concerning his fate. In 1947, they said Wallenberg was not in the Soviet Union or known to author-
ities."

Then in 1957 they said Wallenberg had indeed been taken to Russia but had died of a heart attack in Moscow's Lubyanka Prison in 1947 at the age of 33.

Dardel, an internationally known Swedish professor of

physics in his own right, believes the Soviets captured his brother because they thought he was an American spy, having connections in Hungary with the American War Refugee Board and another organization which was a forerunner to the CIA.

"The Russians knew that Raoul was working on both sides of these two organizations. I'm quite sure he had nothing to do with these organizations, but he would profit by information from these services."

Several current events give Dardel hope that Wallenberg is still alive. Though he would not elaborate on sources, he firmly believes his brother is alive.

"When he went to the Soviet side of Bucharest it was to organize the takeover of his protégés, around 20,000 Jews living in national homes protected by flags

In 1944, the University of

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(Photo by Jonico Poulos)

Guy Von Dardel spoke Monday in Toledo

Raoul Wallenberg

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based on information his family received last May.

Secondly, though the Soviets reissued in August their statement that Wallenberg died in 1947, Dardel said that there was a "remarkable reversal" in the statement's tone, citing its hope that "it would be good if rumors were justified. . . but he died in 1947."

"It was clearly not by mistake that they made the statement. It is at least our hope that the Russians are at the point of abandoning their hard attitude."

Thirdly, Wallenberg was

made an honorary U.S. citizen in October 1961.

"This has given the U.S. the right and duty in finding out what his fate is and restoring him to his home country."

Dardel feels that the most important work to be done on his brother's behalf is for every free country to pressure the Soviets about the case, including the U.S. in its most recent arms talk.

"I think it's important we still keep up the pressure with the Soviets. It's a problem that has to be solved."

"We often hear Raoul Wallenberg, a hero and a saint. To a brother, he's not a hero or a saint. He has done something heroic. But we don't want him to be a real hero. A real hero dies on a battlefield in shining armor. A saint can hardly be a saint without dying as a martyr. That is not what we want. We want Raoul to be alive. We would like him to come back to ordinary life."

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